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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for National  
Intelligence Officers

SUBJECT : Classifications of Communist  
Forces in South Vietnam

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1. The US Intelligence Community classifies  
NVA and VC forces into four separate categories  
with strengths as follows.

December 1973  
(in thousands)

Regular Combat Forces	<u>186</u>
NVA	155
VC	31
Administrative Services	<u>99</u>
NVA	56
VC	43
Guerrillas	<u>50</u>
Political Infrastructure	<u>75</u>

2. The Communists, however, classify their forces somewhat differently. What we call regular combat and administrative services, they lump together and distinguish only by level of command. Those military forces -- combat, support, and staff -- which are directly subordinate to COSVN, military regions or fronts are called main forces. Those directly subordinate to province and district committees are termed local forces. Guerrillas are those forces directly subordinate to villages and hamlets. The US term "political infrastructure" has no direct equivalent in Communist terminology.

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They allude to these persons either as being part of their political organization or as belonging to a particular component -- such as the security or military proselytizing sections -- which we include in our definition of VC infrastructure.

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[REDACTED]  
Chief  
Logistics and Manpower Branch

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